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A Short History of the Great War. By A. F. POLLARD, M.A., Litt.D., Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, Professor of English History in the University of London. (New York: Harcourt, Brace, and Howe. 1920. Pp. viii, 411. \$3.25.)

ALREADY a number of histories of the Great War have appeared, some of them in many volumes, others professing to be "brief" accounts. Prefaces and reviews comment on the difficulty of the task at this early date, before the great mass of official documents is available, and particularly before the facts from the enemy point of view are better known. In the meantime however it is decidedly worth while to attempt some general survey, and more than ample material for a substantially accurate picture is at hand.

Somewhere between the hastily compiled, profusely illustrated, picturesque, and anecdotal sets to be sold on the installment plan on the one hand, and the hopelessly detailed and technical military histories on the other, one looks to the professional historians for accounts of the years since 1914 which shall picture and at the same time interpret the tremendous movements which have convulsed the world. In such accounts large space must of necessity be given to campaigns and battles and purely military matters; but equally ample space should be given to the political and economic and psychological forces and developments which in large measure determined the military outcome.

In turning to Professor A. F. Pollard's *A Short History of the Great War* for such a broad and balanced picture of the events of the last six years one is somewhat disappointed. The book is almost entirely an account of military and naval movements, though there are of course incidental references to, and even brief discussions of, other topics. An introductory chapter deals with the outbreak of the war, and the last pages summarize and discuss the peace settlement. Junker precipitation of the war is ascribed to fear of socialism at home. While some of the details of the settlement are criticized, its great positive achievements are emphasized. Throughout the body of the book such topics as the economic organization of the nations for war, internal political struggles, the conflict between the military and the civil authorities—for instance, in Germany, that over the submarine campaign and the Russian peace—the diplomatic duels to secure the support of wavering neutrals, the working of the blockade, the various peace proposals and moves, and the attitude of the United States, are all given very brief treatment. One cannot criticize the author for not doing what he obviously does not set out to accomplish. But for the general reader, and particularly for a college class, a volume on the plan of Hayes's *Brief History of the Great War* seems distinctly more useful. Incidentally, the lack of bibliography and notes is somewhat against Pollard as a text-book. Some of the maps would be more useful if they contained the conventional marks indicating the position and movements of the troops engaged.

Simply as an account of military events however the volume leaves something to be desired. Rather too much space is given to details, and not quite enough to fundamental questions of topography, tactics, and strategy. There are a number of excellent summaries of events and expositions of situations and discussions of objects and criticisms of strategy; but not infrequently the attention is distracted from fundamentals by the information that "the Germans encircling Ciechanow found themselves encircled at Prasnysz", or that "a battery of Royal Horse Artillery was almost wiped out". The campaigns in Germany's African possessions are given a disproportionate amount of space. Judicious condensation would have made it possible to amplify the discussion of the original French-British plans, the numbers and advantages of the opposing forces, the theories of war of the various general staffs, the developments in tactics evolved by either side, and the like. The accounts of the war by such writers as Belloc and Simonds may perhaps be criticized by military experts, but they have the merit of making clear the general principles and primary objectives, and the average reader, in spite of his newspaper education during the war, needs this kind of information.

In spite however of what the book does not contain—and one cannot say everything in four hundred pages—the volume is well worth reading. Its tone is temperate and judicial, though there is an undercurrent of criticism of the Lloyd George coalition government. Except for the paragraphs in which one gets lost in a tangle of place-names, the account of events is clear and interesting.

ARTHUR P. SCOTT.

The Victory at Sea. By Rear-Admiral WILLIAM SOWDEN SIMS, U. S. N., Commander of the American Naval Forces operating in European Waters during the Great War, in collaboration with Burton J. Hendrick. (Garden City and New York: Doubleday, Page, and Company. 1920. Pp. xiii, 410. \$5.00.)

THIS is a very interesting book carrying with it a comprehensive and intelligent description of the submarine and anti-submarine warfare of the late war, and is by far the best yet made known to the world.

It is especially in this respect of great historical and professional value, as it treats in a continuously progressive manner, technically correct, as well as illuminating, of the wonderful development of the campaign against the submarine, in the great trade routes and waters, converging about the British Isles. It states clearly the successive steps taken to avoid and counteract the German submarine warfare which at one time seemed to be on the point of success.

The concentration of shipping and transport in the narrow seas about Great Britain and Ireland afforded the salient objective for the sub-